

# RoadRunner



Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Staff Newsletter February 2009

## Pete "Handle-It" Handler

### Recounts Roadside Baby Delivery

Submitted by Pete Handler, Commercial Transport Inspector

**Editor's Note:** Employees across the ministry were amazed and extremely proud, when we found out our very own Pete Handler delivered a child, while on duty. Pete, also a volunteer firefighter, made the special delivery in December.



Pete Handler (left) at work during another cool winter shift.

Since then, Pete has been the subject of a Global News Broadcast, which featured Pete at work, the happy family with their healthy baby girl, and a recording of Pete conferring with the BC Ambulance Service during the delivery. Recently, Pete received a thank you card from the Penningroth family, a birth announcement and a photograph.

Now here's Pete's own story of the sequence of events...

On Wednesday, December 10, our manager Steve Haywood gave me a quick call – asking if I would like to escort a house being moved from Mission to Harrison Mills, approximately 50 kilometres apart.

In 1998, I had a house moved to some property I owned at the time. I figured taking part in a house move would be fun – especially without any of the risks involved when you are paying for the move.

The house had come from a Ritchie Brothers auction on Vancouver Island. "Plan A" was to float it up the Fraser River to Harrison Mills, but low water prevented the move for the last 50 kilometres, so "Plan B" was to move the house by road for that last stretch.

The building was about 21 feet wide – with this width it stretched from white outer line to white outer line on the highway. Most of the route would be two-lane roadway. The purpose of having CVSE present, was to ensure that approaching traffic was directed to pullouts as the houses passed. The permit allowed transport of the homes between midnight and 5 a.m.

Operations Manager Barry Eastman and Area Manager Bill Haney were also present to assist in the house move.

The night of the move was clear – below freezing with some ice on the roads – but no snow. The move was starting from the Mission Harbour area. Escorting the house

*continued on page 3...*

### News Flash

Changes to the ministry Executive were recently announced. Please see pages 33 and 34 for details.

## Editor's Note

Things have gotten mighty cold this fall and winter. And as I write this, I think of people affected by floods, slides and avalanches who are facing severe hardship. I think of the steadfast people in the ministry who are working with these difficult conditions, and those who are also dealing with challenges beyond work and the call of duty.

This ministry has more than a few employees who have given up their hair (hair being a definite warming advantage for this season) to support a co-worker, friend or child with cancer. They have been accompanied in their head-shaving, or have been generously supported, by their colleagues in law enforcement and the trucking industry. Together these people have joined, almost as a family, to help some of the families of ministry employees, and others, by raising much needed financial assistance.



Cops for Cancer cyclist and CVSE staffer Heather Lilburn, with young friends on a warm day.

Interestingly enough, as noted on this issue's cover, one of our employees has also brought forth new life in a family. On a cold winter night, this was done under far less than ideal circumstances.

May this winter find you consistently warm – in your heart – if not always in your daily life.

Nancy McLeod, Editor

## RoadRunner Contents, February 2009



### Pete "Handle-It" Handler

Recounts Roadside Baby Delivery

page 1

### Editor's Note

Safety Improvements in the Grasslands

### Contest Generates Photos of Bulkley-Stikine

20

Executive Support Profiles Reveal a Multi-Talented Crew

### No Executives Were Harmed in the Raising of These Funds

22

### Employee Advisory Forum

Year of the Peer, Engagement Discussed at EAF Gathering

### Bird's Eye View of Bentley Slide

24

EAF Teams

### Football Debt Paid in Full

24

### Webinar Focus Group Under Consideration

### You're a Winner!

Fourth Procurement and Contract Program Graduation a Success

25

Mike Proudfoot Returns (as Vowed) to West Kootenay District

### Dinosaur and Doughnuts Raise Cash

26

### Getting There Green

Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles

### Community Events!

27

Now on the Road

Cops for Cancer Ride a Moving Experience

28

Green Teams are Here!

CVSE Participates in Remembrance Day Ceremony

29

Climate Action Program

### Onto new vistas

Recommended Read

Best Wishes and Good Luck to Dianne Friend

30

Ministry Voices Speak for Winter Safety

### On the road again

30

### The Provincial Transit Plan

How to Haul a Prize Bull

31

Come Ride with Us.... and Help Change Culture!

Caribou Catching Up?

31

Our New Home

### You never know what you'll see

32

Heads Shaved and Cash Raised for Terry Deacon

Tow Truck Gets Towed

33

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Word Search

Heavy Hauling

31

In Memoriam : William Crandall

32

Staff Roundup

33

The **RoadRunner** is an employee newsletter, published six times a year. We welcome your story submissions. Email your article as a word document (350 words max) and your photographs as jpgs to: [RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca).

In the email for your story, please attach the text as a word document and attach the graphics (photos, charts, etc) as separate jpgs or pdf files. Please DO NOT embed graphics in the article – this compromises reproduction quality and the images may not be useable by our graphic artist.

You can check out the **Employee Advisory Forum** website for regular updates: [http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/EAF/home\\_intra.asp](http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/EAF/home_intra.asp)

For **@Work** – the Public Service Community Website, visit: <https://gww.gov.bc.ca/?email=yes>

Check out the **TRAN Online Store** at: <http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/gwwwr/content/store/onlinestore.pdf>

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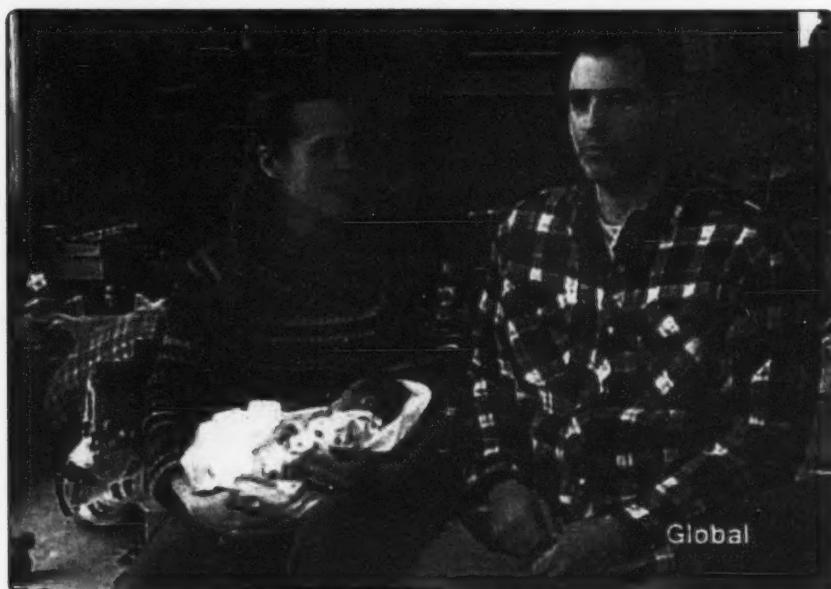
## RoadRunner Contents, February 2009



Pete "Handle-It" Handler Recounts Roadside Baby Delivery	page 1	Contest Generates Photos of Bulkley-Stikine	20	The RoadRunner is an employee newsletter, published six times a year. We welcome your story submissions. Email your article as a word document (350 words max) and your photographs as jpegs to: <a href="mailto:Roadrunner@gov.bc.ca">Roadrunner@gov.bc.ca</a> .
Editor's Note	2	No Executives Were Harmed in the Raising of These Funds	22	In the email for your story, please attach the text as a word document and attach the graphics (photos, charts, etc) as separate jpegs or pdf files. Please DO NOT embed graphics in the article – this compromises reproduction quality and the images may not be useable by our graphic artist.
Safety Improvements in the Grasslands	4	Bird's Eye View of Bentley Slide	24	You can check out the Employee Advisory Forum website for regular updates: <a href="http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/EAF/home_intra.asp">http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/EAF/home_intra.asp</a>
Executive Support Profiles Reveal a Multi-Talented Crew	5	Football Debt Paid in Full	24	For @Work – the Public Service Community Website, visit: <a href="https://www.gov.bc.ca/?email=yes">https://www.gov.bc.ca/?email=yes</a>
Employee Advisory Forum		You're a Winner!		Check out the TRAN Online Store at: <a href="http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/gwwhr/content/store/onlinestore.pdf">http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/gwwhr/content/store/onlinestore.pdf</a>
Year of the Peer, Engagement Discussed at EAF Gathering	8	Fourth Procurement and Contract Program Graduation a Success	25	
EAF Teams	9	Dinosaur and Doughnuts Raise Cash	26	
Webinar Focus Group Under Consideration	10	Community Events!		
Mike Proudfoot Returns (as Vowed) to West Kootenay District	11	Cops for Cancer Ride a Moving Experience CVSE Participates in Remembrance Day Ceremony	27	
Getting There Green		Onto new vistas		
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles	12	Best Wishes and Good Luck to Dianne Friend	29	
Now on the Road	13	On the road again		
Green Teams are Here!	13	How to Haul a Prize Bull	30	
Climate Action Program Recommended Read	14	Caribou Catching Up?	30	
Ministry Voices Speak for Winter Safety	15	You never know what you'll see		
The Provincial Transit Plan		Tow Truck Gets Towed	31	
Come Ride with Us.... and Help Change Culture!	16	Heavy Hauling	31	
Our New Home	17	In Memoriam : William Crandall	32	
Heads Shaved and Cash Raised for Terry Deacon	18	Staff Roundup	33	
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Word Search	19			

# Pete "Handle-It" Handler Recounts Roadside Baby Delivery

*continued from front cover*



Television coverage of Brandie and Scott Penningroth, with baby Tupelo, recounting their experience on the Lougheed Highway. (Image courtesy of Global BC News.)

was a total of four pilot cars, with the lead pilot car driven by Megan from Priddy House Movers.

The permit allowed travel to begin at midnight. However, due to several delays, it wasn't until 2 a.m. that the house and pilot cars left Mission toward Highway 7 (Lougheed Highway). Once we left Mission, progress was quick – the first leg of the trip was onto Highway 7 toward Hatzic, and the road here is a two-lane highway.

As the house traveled along the highway, I was in the 34600 block of Highway 7, directing two or three cars into a pullout so the house could pass. Just as I started guiding the last vehicle into the pullout, a large yellow Dodge Sprinter van pulled up at a brisk pace. The male driver yelled out his window that he needed help – his wife was in labour!

At this location, the road was blocked by the house so the only way around was through the back roads of Mission. However, the mom-to-be advised that she thought the baby was a few minutes away. (Had the house moving begun on time, we would have been long past this location!)

The house moving company was told there was an emergency – to clear access as best they could – and I asked the lead pilot car

driver for assistance. A quick call was placed to the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) who advised that the nearest ambulance was 10 minutes away. We advised BCAS that by then, we would most likely have a seven-minute-old baby waiting for them.

Initially, I was trying to relay information about the delivery to BCAS – but holding the phone was not easy given the demands of the moment. About two to three minutes into the event, the mother advised that the baby was well on its way. That evening there was ice on the side of the road – so it was decided to leave mom and baby in the van – even though it had bucket seats – as it would be warmer.

The father was directed to go grab coveralls, jackets and anything else he could find so we could use it to wrap the baby in when it came. By the time the father returned the baby had pretty well arrived – a quick check of the airway confirmed there was no obstruction, and the baby was crying within five to 10 seconds.

I had the very good fortune of having Megan from Priddy House Movers beside me, who had the cell phone and was able to give BCAS updates – the best of which was that the baby appeared healthy and was breathing.

To deal with the umbilical cord, the father removed his shoe lace, and we bent over and tied the cord off until BCAS arrived. For the next few minutes we kept the baby warm, ensured it was breathing and waited for BCAS while providing updates for the ambulance crew.

The mother was fantastic – very calm and easy going! I felt bad that the best we could offer her roadside was half of a cold Tim Horton hot chocolate.

Once the BCAS crew arrived, they asked for a quick update. We told them baby was happy and healthy, and handed them the young one. A few minutes later, one of the paramedics came back and said the baby appeared to be doing very well. (Baby and mom were later released from hospital, the same day, in good health.)

Having been a volunteer firefighter for 10 years paid dividends this night. When we covered childbirth in first responder training, many of us dozed off in class – though thank God I just dozed off and did not sleep through it. Over the years, when we at the Fire Department get calls like this, the ambulance is almost always there first, and we have the resources we need at the scene. In this case, roadside, we did not have that.

From start to finish, the entire incident took about 30 minutes. It took about 12 minutes for BCAS to arrive. And keeping in step, the house move was completed before the 5 a.m. deadline.

Thank you to Barry and Bill for their support – and for Barry's look of surprise when he found out this was taking place. I must also extend a true heartfelt thanks to everyone who has called and e-mailed. I was truly touched by the response from everyone – Thank You!! ♦



Family photo of the appreciative Penningroth family sent to Pete.

# Safety Improvements in the Grasslands

Submitted by Shawn Clough, Assistant Program Manager

## Let me paint you a picture .....

The sky is crystal blue, the waves of grass on the high prairie of Knutsford undulate with the breeze as a red-tailed hawk glides over Highway 5A. Looking down from the hawk's view, one sees a line of commercial transport trucks parked on the highway. They are waiting to get into a tiny brake check, no more than a small widening in the roadway, before proceeding down the hill into Kamloops.

Unfortunately this scene was all too real on Highway 5A south of Kamloops. The brake check in Knutsford hadn't changed in the last 40 years, but the volume of transport traffic utilizing the highway had certainly increased! The truckers were required to stop at the site to check their brakes, but the storage capacity at the site was limited to three trucks and when more than three arrived at the same time, the trucks were forced to stop on the highway to check their brakes. The project had been "on the books" in the Thompson Nicola District for a number of years, and in 2008 funding from the district's Heartlands budget, Mountain Pine Beetle Program, Regional Safety Program and ICBC paved the way for project construction.

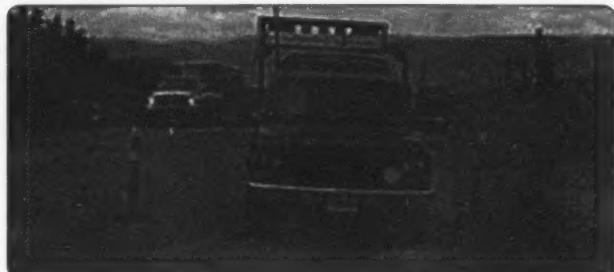
The project had a number of delivery challenges not uncommon to anyone doing construction projects in the province! Utility moves took much longer than originally planned, ditch and road fill saturation from flood irrigation on nearby fields was not accounted for and traffic management was difficult. Thankfully, the project team addressed all of these obstacles and moved the project forward. The City of Kamloops joined forces with the ministry and allowed for the installation of a temporary brake check within city limits during the construction period. There was a requirement to provide a designated brake check while the new facility was being constructed, so with no room to accommodate this at the site, the use of city property for the temporary brake check was critical.

Bob Neville, Mike Castrucow and Harland Levesque of Field Services were the guys responsible for making the Knutsford Brake Check a reality. They spent long hours battling the mosquitoes, explaining the safety benefits to inconvenienced commuters and truck drivers, and facing the incessant wind, to construct the facility drawn up by the South Interior Region's design team. After daily supervision of the day labour equipment for a short four weeks, the new facility was complete!

The new Knutsford Brake Check has storage for at least nine trucks, a through lane to move vehicles through the site more efficiently, overhead lighting and a washroom facility. The separated grade and acceleration/deceleration lanes move trucks onto and off the highway safely, so trucks no longer obstruct the route.

This new facility is not only a safer brake check, but it also provides a safe location for CVSE Portable Inspector Robert Marshall, to inspect the commercial vehicles that travel Highway 5A. Due to very limited right-of-way and suitable pullouts, Knutsford is the only site that can be used for commercial vehicle inspections. The trucks that drive Highway 5A do not have to go across the scales at the Eastbound Inspection Station, so the ability to ensure compliance at the Knutsford site is valuable.

The truckers all seem to appreciate the new facility. One truck driver noted that the previous brake check was less than perfect, and that it was unsatisfactory, "having your rear hang out into traffic as you check your brakes." ♦



Before: The previous brake check area accommodated only three trucks.



After: The new brake check at Knutsford allows for nine trucks, and improves access to and from Highway 5A.



CVSE Inspector Ron Marshall at work in the new, safer location.

# Executive Support Profiles Reveal a Multi-Talented Crew

**Behind every Executive at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, there is an employee providing administrative support to make things happen.**

Executive Administrative Support staff relay information and direction from the Deputy Minister, the Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) to ministry employees across the province. They are the first point of contact for the Executive and handle high priority assignments, schedule many a meeting and keep things operating smoothly.

Just who are these people, at the other end of the phone? Read on and find out...



Liz Kenny says she has been with the ministry "eternally."

**Liz Kenny, Executive Coordinator to the Deputy Minister.**

**What are you known for?** Running the ministry (well, the Deputy Minister has a hand in it but really...)

**What's your favourite treat?** Pope's noses from the ol' turkey. Anyone can feel free to send them to me (frozen of course) from the various holiday turkey moments we have throughout the year.

**Most interesting/unusual job held?** Oasis Car Wash – met a lot of very off-beat folks while washing and vacuuming cars. Good training for the job I now hold.

**How long have you been with the ministry?** Eternally.

**What is most challenging about your job?** Was John Dyble, soon to be Peter Milburn.

**What is most rewarding about your job?** Working in this ministry (I know, I know, yuck but it is actually true).

**What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you at work?** Sending all of the ADMs and the DM to a meeting that was organized by the Office of the Premier – a half hour late.

**In a perfect world...** I would rule it, benignly of course, and the Deputy Minister would be my second in command.



JoAnn Clar with Trevor Linden poster in background.

**JoAnn Clar, Executive Assistant to Transportation Planning and Policy ADM.**

**Editor's Note:** JoAnn provided a few answers to questions of her own creation.

– If I were stranded on a desert island, I would need Trevor Linden with me.

– First thing I do in the morning is put on my socks.

– I prefer people over horses because horses have too many flies by their noses.

**What's your favourite treat?** Lunch out on my birthday, or in the summer, ice cream day with the social club.

**Most interesting/unusual job held?** I once was the games girl at a convention, where I sat on a couch with my legs crossed, and delegates tossed rings onto my foot. Spent the evening like this and was paid well.

**What was your first job ever?** Popcorn seller at the ice rink

**What is most challenging about your job?** The people

**What is most rewarding about your job?** The people

**In a perfect world...** I would be perfect – however I am just loud!

*continues on the next page...*

# Executive Support Profiles Reveal

## a Multi-Talented Crew continued from page 5



Barb Kuhnke and Jennifer Cownden work as a team with Highways ADM.

**Barb Kuhnke, Executive Clerk to Highways ADM.**

**What's your favourite treat?** A day at the spa.

**What was your first job ever?** City girl...14 years old...summer job working on a ranch in Alberta driving tractor, hauling silage, painting barns, immunizing cows, nanny to the seven kids..."other duties as required".

**How long have you been with the provincial government?** Since April 18, 2008.

**What is most challenging about your job?** After living in Alberta all my life, coming here only a few months ago to work for the ministry and having to learn so much about the province of B.C – locations, highways, tires, etc...getting to a point where I even sound like I know what I'm talking about!

**In a perfect world...** peace, love, joy, good health and prosperity for all! If that gets too boring, then add "excitement" too!

**Jennifer Cownden, Executive Coordinator to Highways ADM.**

**Most interesting/unusual job held?** Working as an Executive Assistant to a Cabinet Minister at the Legislature.

**What was your first job ever?** Leading the kid's program "Jerry's Rangers" at Rathetrevor Provincial Park.

**How long have you been with the provincial government?** Six years.

**What's your ideal vacation?** I love to travel. One of my most favourite trips is going to visit my friend Anthea, who works on Royal Caribbean, and cruising the Caribbean Seas with her!

**What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you at work?** The Premier coming into my office to wish me a happy birthday, while I was leaving someone a message on the phone – completely lost my train of thought!

**Wendy Leach, Executive Assistant to Finance ADM Sheila Taylor.**

**What are you known for?** Whistling while I work.

**What's your favourite treat?** Hot cinnamon buns.

**Most interesting job?** Being a fabric buyer (a woman's equivalent of being a kid in a candy store).

**What was your first job ever?** Boxing up military memorabilia from an army surplus warehouse in Mission, B.C.

**How long have you been with the provincial government/the ministry?** Eight years for both.

**What's your ideal vacation?** Camping beside a lake, with mountains in the distance, and a canoe at the shore.

**What is most challenging about your job?** Rescheduling meetings for the umpteenth time.

**What is most rewarding about your job?** Reading about the positive outcomes in the news.

**What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you at work?** Losing phone calls when I try to transfer them (Murphy's Law – John Dyble will always be the person I'm trying to transfer).

**What has been your best experience at work?** One of my best experiences while working with the ministry was to attend the Connections to the Future Conference in 2007. I found it very interesting and informative to see the "whole picture," as to how our ministry plays such an integral role in the transportation of goods and people throughout the province.

**What hobbies, interests and or activities energize you?** Sewing, gardening and jazzercise.

**What do you like about working at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure?** The variety of issues and the people I work with.

**In a perfect world...** there would be peace.

*continues on the next page...*

# Executive Support Profiles Reveal a Multi-Talented Crew

*continued from page 6*

**Claire Ingram, Executive Administrative Assistant to Partnerships ADM.**

**What are you known for?** Hopefully, being as helpful as possible.

**What's your favourite treat?** Chocolate and wine (but not at the same time!).

**How long have you been with the provincial government/the ministry?** Just over three years for both.

**What is most rewarding about your job?** Helping my boss.

**What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you at work?** Making scones for the first time when I was 16 years old, in Ye Olde Tea Shoppe – they turned out like hockey pucks. Needless to say, we didn't sell many that day and I wasn't asked to bake again! I've never managed to make edible scones since!

**What hobbies, interests and or activities energize you?** Horseriding – but only when I don't fall off.

**What do you like about working at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure?** The people.

**In a perfect world... we wouldn't need money.**

**Stephanie Shaw, Executive Clerk to Deputy Minister.**

**What are you known for?** My love of music.

**What's your favourite treat?** Popsicles.

**Most interesting/unusual job held?** Sushi chef.

**How long have you been with the provincial government and ministry?** Since March 17, 2008.

**What's your ideal vacation?** Spending time in Hackensack, New Jersey.

**What do you like about working at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure?** The people.

**What hobbies, interests or activities energize you?** Watching scary movies. ♦



Executive Support Lineup: Claire Ingram, JoAnn Clar, Wendy Leach, Stephanie Shaw, Barb Kuhnke and Jennifer Cownden. (Missing from photo: Liz Kenny; Brenda Mielke).

## Year of the Peer, Engagement Discussed at EAF Gathering

Submitted by Ashley Johnston, Recognition Team Member and Permit Clerk

The Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) had its fall 2008 meeting, in November. The two-day meeting was quite a dynamic one to attend. There was a lot learned from each member's report out, and from guest speakers (then) Deputy Minister John Dyble and HR Research Analyst Kimberly Newton.

First thing on the agenda, was each EAF member speaking on what they have done to represent the forum. As members of the EAF (a group of 50 Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure employees from around the province) we all recognize that we are the voice to the ministry Executive. As the voice for our offices and regions, each speaker shared their ideas and personal experiences on how they informed and educated co-workers about what the EAF is, and what we do. It was an extremely positive conversation and was full of ideas, stories, obstacles and triumphs. These conversations are extremely important as there are always new EAF members, and everyone gains more knowledge on how to promote the EAF, and generate understanding of our group among employees in the ministry.

John Dyble had a very exciting talk with us about the economy and the future of the ministry. He spoke about accelerated infrastructure leading to direct results on the economy. He stressed that, "We need to do more rather than less," which in part, will create the demand for more work.

John also expressed a desire for ministry employees to become more engaged – this coming from our "Year of the Peer" concept. The Year of the Peer means employees taking more responsibility for their own engagement, and how they can support their peers, and therefore, the organization.

There was much talk about a workshop called Teach What You Know, which was

piloted in November. The workshop is based on the book, *Teach What You Know: A practical leader's guide to knowledge transfer using peer mentoring*, by Steve Trautman. The workshop instructs those who are not sure how to "teach," how to pass on their learning. Stay tuned for the results from the pilot.



Deputy Minister John Dyble spoke about taking employee engagement to the next level.

There was also an explanation of the Workforce Environment Survey – how to read the results, and how to concentrate our efforts. Yet again, this generated a lively discussion that brought forward several great ideas. This survey is one that

every ministry employee should complete. The common quote comes to mind, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem", meaning, this is another way for your voice to be heard. This survey allows you to express what you're happy about with the ministry, as well as what you're not happy about. From these results, the EAF looks at the scores and tries to come up with ways to make improvements to our workplaces.

Ministry HR Resource Analyst Kimberly Newton made a presentation on the public service values of innovation, curiosity, accountability, teamwork, courage, passion and service. She described them as a different language for talking about what is important, and presented them as a new way of looking at how the ministry plans and carries out its work.

### What to look for from the EAF:

- Updates have been made to the Career Start Initiative Website, including more employee profiles and information for retiring employees.
- Watch for this year's recognition calendar, coming soon.
- Information on staffing practices, and how they work in our ministry.
- New lunch and learn opportunities on health and work/life balance topics. ♦

*continues on the next page...*

# EAF Employee Advisory Forum *continued from page 8*

## Year of the Peer, Engagement Discussed at EAF Gathering



Dawn Nicholson receives a plaque of appreciation from EAF Chair Grant Lachmuth for her contribution to the EAF.



Staffing for the Future team members Sheila Chan, John Van Der Holt and Jim MacMillan discuss their work plan for 2009.



EAF members were joined for a group photo by Deputy Minister John Dyble (third from left).

## EAF Teams

Team Appreciation	Team Balancing Act	Road to Opportunity	Walk the Talk	Staffing for the Future
<b>Leadership and Recognition</b>	<b>Work/Life Balance</b>	<b>Career Development and Training</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Staffing Practices</b>
<b>Team Sponsor – Todd Hubner</b>	<b>Team Sponsor – Barb Thomas</b>	<b>Team Sponsor – Mary-Ethel Audley</b>	<b>Team Sponsor – Jacques Dupas</b>	<b>Team Sponsor – Pam Merkley</b>
<b>Team Lead Yongmei Chen</b> Nassir Malik Crystal Chenier Dennis Pryhitko Terry N. Harbicht Ashley Johnston Heather Lilburn Brendan Kelly	<b>Team Lead Debbie O'Brien</b> Susan Ingram Sandra Jackman Judy L'Hirondelle Janice Kerr Vickie Martin Nathan Voogd Stacey Weightman Jennifer Hardy Crystal Lacher	<b>Team Lead Jackie Chambers</b> Holly Adems Adrienne Chow Karen Brown Sharon Cowden Lenora Fillion Kimberly Newton Adrian Vander-Velden	<b>Team Lead Trent Folk</b> Carmone Allen Keith Callander Ken Nash Nancy McLeod Lori Wiedeman Ed Wnuk	<b>Team Lead Brian Taylor</b> George Foisy Mark Hallam Sheila Chan Layle Larusson Jim Macmillan Bob Petho Jay Porter John Van Der Holt Rob Kaleka

# EAF Employee Advisory Forum *continued from page 9*

## Webinar Focus Group Under Consideration

Submitted by Staffing for the Future Team Members Jim MacMillan (Area Vehicle Inspector) and John Van Der Holt (Field Services Aide)

Hello to all of you in the New Year. Hope every one enjoyed the festive season. Now that we all have signed up for those introductory sessions at the local fitness club (to live up to our New Year's resolutions – just teasing!) it is time once again to deal with the issues the Staffing Practices Team are currently faced with.

Your EAF Staffing Practices Team has been hard at work formulating strategies in order to move to the next phase of our mandate.

On November 25 and 26, our team, along with the other EAF teams, met to discuss where to go next. The Staffing Practices team was glad to see a 50 per cent response to the mini survey, as reported by Sheila Chan in the last Road Runner edition. As mentioned in that issue, the committee is considering conducting small focus groups around the province to break out the survey results and gather responses from a variety of ministry staff.

With respect to these small focus groups, the team discussed (amongst other things) confidentiality, travel logistics, costs, as well as how to best ask for feedback from staff. In addition, the team felt that there were two critical issues that had to be addressed in order to make the focus group sessions more functional. Those two issues are:

- Creating a comfortable atmosphere, and
- Ensuring confidentiality for all participants

The recommendation adopted is to use web-based seminars. As this is a relatively new way of communicating it will be unfamiliar to some, but it is very user friendly and will be an effective way of conducting meaningful focus groups.

"Webinar" is like a chat line that allows anyone anonymously to enter, and with the help of the focus group moderator, it is easy to maintain the focus of the

discussion. The primary benefit of this approach is that there are no associated travel costs and the participants maintain a high level of confidentiality and anonymity.

More communication will be sent to you on this topic. As always, if you have any thoughts, ideas or just a friendly hello, please feel free to contact any of the team members on the EAF. ♦

### Some Things We've Learned So Far:

- 72 per cent of employees surveyed believe that staffing practices in the ministry are fair, most or all of the time.
- After reading the principles of merit as part of the survey, the number of employees surveyed who felt staffing practices in the ministry were meritorious increased by 52 per cent.
- Surveyed employees, who have been part of a staffing process in the last five years, were five per cent more likely to believe staffing practices are conducted fairly.

We expect to learn more from the webinars this year.

### Submit your stories and photos:

If you want to submit stories and photos send your word files and photos to: [RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca)



# Mike Proudfoot Returns (as Vowed) to West Kootenay District

Submitted by Glenn Olleck, West Kootenay District Manager

**Highways ADM Mike Proudfoot visited the West Kootenay District on October 21 and 22, fulfilling an earlier promise from summer.**

Mike had attempted an earlier visit, scheduled for July 29 and 30. He did arrive in Nelson on July 29 and attended an evening dinner with supervisory staff. The plan was to visit with West Kootenay District employees the next day, and to tour the district. Unfortunately, Lower Mainland District Manager Perry Dennis, seemed to need Mike more than our district did. The Sea to Sky rock slide and highway closure occurred late on the evening of July 29, and Mike had to leave for Vancouver the next morning to meet with Minister Kevin Falcon.

Mike vowed to return to the West Kootenay District just as soon as possible, noting that it would be his first district visit, once he could get on the road again. True to his word, Mike returned to the district on October 21. He was joined that day by Chief Operating Officer Peter Milburn, and they had lunch with the regional and district staff, allowing an opportunity to visit and chat.

After lunch, Mike and I went on a road trip in the Castlegar and Trail area. The next day we visited maintenance contractor YRB (Kootenay) Ltd., then headed out on the road. We managed to tour a portion of the spectacular Kootenays – Nelson to Kaslo to New Denver to Nakusp, and then back to Castlegar, through the smaller communities of Silverton, Slocan and Winlaw. We reached the airport in time for Mike to board a 3:45 p.m. flight to Vancouver.

During our road trip, I believe Mike was out of cell phone range for about four to five hours. As time passed, his smile grew even larger, as he said he had never been out of cell service for such a long period of time. Within 30 seconds of re-entering cell range, the phone was ringing once again.

It was a wonderful opportunity for Mike to visit everyone, and a pleasure for me to have had the travel time with him. We look forward to his next return trip to the West Kootenay District.

It was also very appreciated to have both Peter and Mike visit our district at the same time. (Sorry about the "no photo" Peter.) ♦



Highways ADM Mike Proudfoot visits with West Kootenay District staff, in October.



# Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Climate Action Program

## Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles Now on the Road

Submitted by Maggie Malek, Climate Action Program

On November 26, 2008, a public announcement revealed that two 2005 Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Toyota Prius hybrids, one originally from Prince George and the other from Nelson, were converted into plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). They are now being tested for vehicle and battery performance, as well as gasoline consumption.



Prius, which has been converted to a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, in front of B.C. Legislative Assembly, in Victoria.

A conventional hybrid-electric vehicle uses both a battery (electric) and gasoline (internal combustion) to generate the power to move. The battery is charged by the combustion of gasoline and by applying the brakes to your vehicle. When you first start your car it will drive using mostly electric power, and as the vehicle picks up speed, the internal combustion will kick-in. These two power sources make a hybrid-electric vehicle more efficient than a gasoline-powered vehicle, in terms

of fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Yet converting a hybrid-electric vehicle into a PHEV has even more advantages, especially from an environmental standpoint. While a PHEV has a much larger, heavier battery than a hybrid-electric, this battery does not need gasoline to charge it because it can be plugged in. As a result, a PHEV can provide up to 50 kilometres of pure electric operation with speeds under 55km/h. As

the battery runs down, it would operate as hybrid-electric, and the engine will start up and continue to power the electric drive of the car, again minimizing gasoline consumption. The driver should experience no difference between driving a PHEV and a hybrid-electric vehicle.

Other cost/convenience benefits of PHEVs include:

- saving money, as electricity is sold at a much lower cost than gasoline;
- a PHEV can typically be charged overnight by plugging into a standard 120 volt outlet, such as found in most garages, which means fewer trips to the gas station;
- a PHEV owner might expect to buy gasoline only five to 10 times a year.

Of course, one of the greatest advantages of a PHEV is its impact on the environment. While batteries are 100 per cent emission free, a PHEV is not 100 per cent clean technology, because it still consumes some gasoline. However, while the average car emits about 10 tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere each year, were that vehicle to be replaced with a PHEV-30, (with 30 mile (50 km) range), operating on renewable hydroelectricity, this would amount to a reduction of about 6.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Not only will the ministry's two PHEVs reduce provincial transportation emissions and assist the government in reaching

*continues on the next page...*

## Getting there Green continued from page 12

### Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles Now on the Road

carbon neutrality, but it will equally increase public awareness of PHEV technology, and encourage further research while marking B.C. as a leader in green transportation. The rapid adoption of PHEV technology will likely spur rapid developments in battery technology, which may eventually lead to 100 per cent clean vehicle power.



Vehicle's battery can provide up to 50 kilometres of solely electric operation.



BC Hydro's Alex Tsang and Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Kevin Falcon with energy-efficient vehicle.

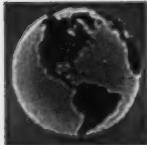
### Green Teams are Here!

Submitted by Maggie Malek, Climate Action Program

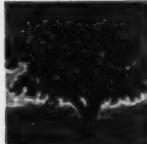
**Do you want to reduce how much paper you use in the office? How about reducing the amount of electricity you use? Or carpooling to save on gas and reduce GHG emissions?**

Hop onto the CAP intranet and join a Green Team. Or create a Green Team that has those same interests, or similar ones, and make your office and personal life a little greener.

Take a look at what some of the teams have already gotten going:

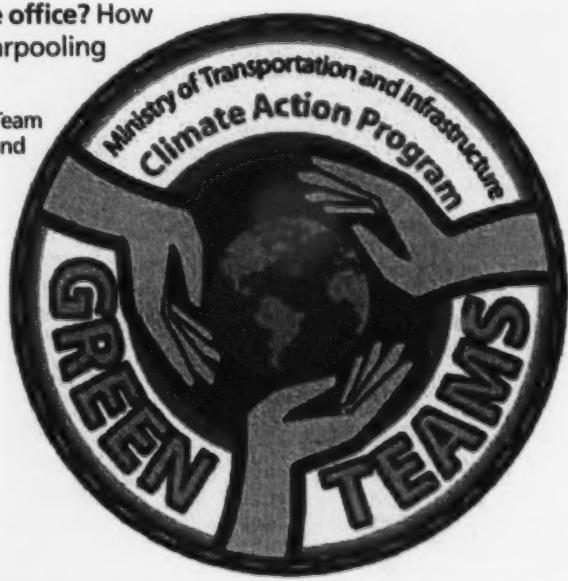


Do you want to reduce paper use, increase recycling and make better use of office electricity? Join the Great Green Northerners!



Do you want to reduce your office and personal footprint and work toward a greener future? Join the Rocky Mountain Green Team!

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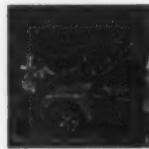


## Getting there Green continued from page 13

### Green Teams are Here!



Do you want to give back to the community while reducing your personal and corporate footprint? Join the West Kootenay District Green Team!



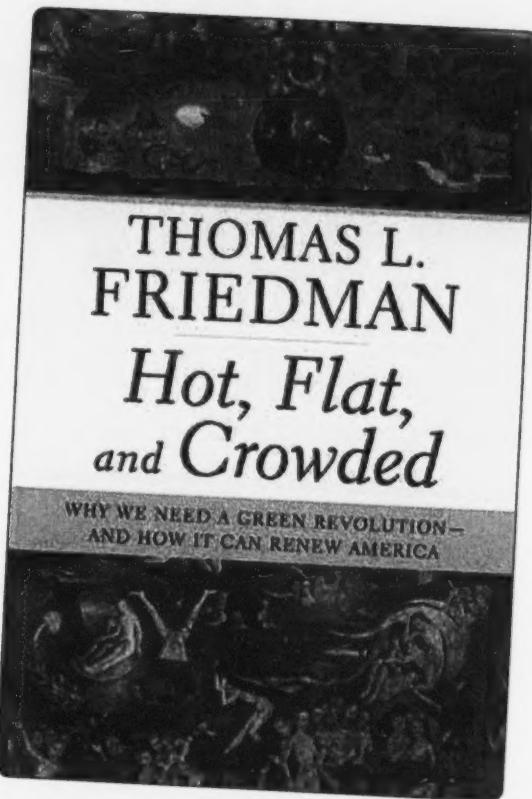
How about promoting awareness and sustainable behaviour and being an environmental steward? Join the Okanagan-Shuswap Green Team!

Check out the site for all the other teams and find one near you, or create one if it doesn't yet exist!

### Climate Action Program Recommended Read

Thomas L. Friedman's phenomenal number-one bestseller *The World Is Flat* has helped millions of readers to see the world in a new way. Now, in *Hot, Flat, and Crowded; Why we need a green revolution, and how it can renew America*, he shows us how the solutions to two big problems – America's surprising loss of focus and national purpose since 9-11 and the global environmental crisis (which is affecting everything from food to fuel to forests) – are linked and how we can restore the world.

Hop onto the Climate Action Program Intranet (<http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/cap/library.aspx>) and sign it out today! ♦



#### Submit your stories and photos:

If you want to submit stories and photos send your word files and photos to: [RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca)



# Ministry Voices Speak for Winter Safety

Submitted by Gord Chudleigh, District Operations Manager  
and Donna Hoglund, Auxiliary District Clerk

New winter driving preparedness radio ads have been developed by a local professional marketer who has put a fresh, focused and dynamic style to our messaging, in the East Kootenay.

With input and review from West Kootenay District Manager Glen Olleck, who heads up the provincial communications committee for winter preparedness, the new ads are consistent with provincial messaging. The previous ads, used for the past few years, were said to be dated and non-attention getting. Well, we have that problem solved now!

Senior Development Approvals Technician Leslie Elder and District Program Engineer Jeremy Zanderbergen, and Willy and Heather from Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting, were "volentold" to participate in the new ads. The personal involvement and voices of these ministry and maintenance contractor employees, have brought added credibility and urgency to our communications. The ads provide sound advice, like not passing a highway maintenance vehicle on the right hand side, checking DriveBC before hitting the road and what winter safety supplies a vehicle should be equipped with.

The new ads are complemented by strategically-placed changeable message boards, a couple of newspaper articles, a radio interview and town hall meetings featuring information sessions hosted by Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting. Together, these activities round out the proactive stakeholder winter preparedness messaging in the Rocky Mountain District.

Our new ads can be heard on radio CHBZ B104 and CHDR 102 the Drive, in the East Kootenay. The area's new celebrity radio personalities (Leslie, Jeremy, Willy and Heather) will be signing autographs at the mall on weekends. ♦



Jeremy Zanderbergen is cued to put his best broadcasting voice forward.



Leslie Elder has a light-hearted moment during her recording of winter driving advice.

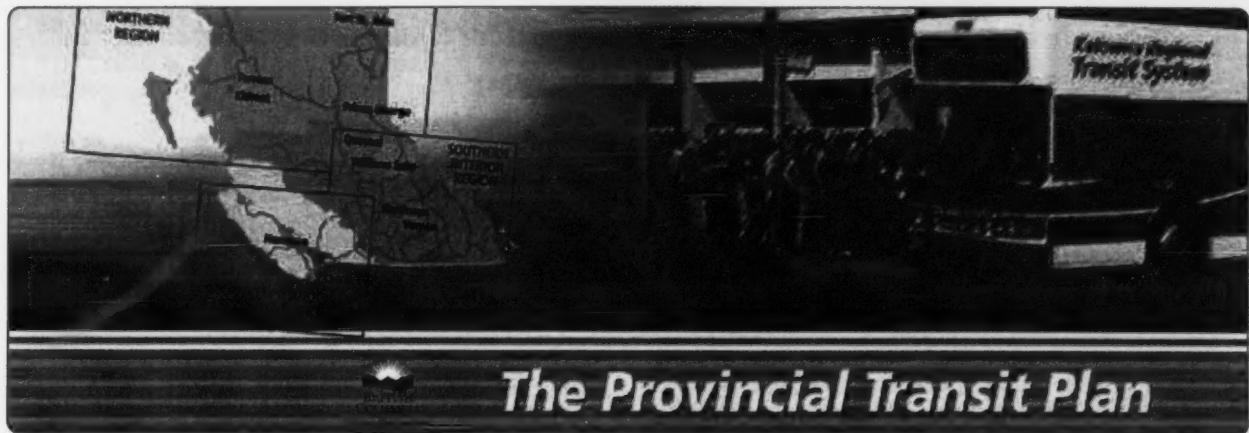
## East Kootenay Radio Commercial #10

**Announcer:** When winter gets serious, you need to tweak your driving "personna". Speed should take a back seat to safety every time. Posted road signs are for ideal situations – adjust your speed to road conditions.

Here in the East Kootenay, good winter tires are recommended. Let the current weather and road conditions dictate how to proceed. Invest in good winter tires, maintenance, emergency supplies and keen knowledge of where you're going, so you can cruise to your destination without incident.

**Jeremy:** This is Jeremy from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Thanks for putting speed where it belongs...in the back seat away from the gas pedal.

**Willy:** Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting – Your Roads, Your Team!



## The Provincial Transit Plan

### Come Ride with Us.... and Help Change Culture!

Submitted by Jean Bishop, A/Transit Analyst

In the last issue of the Road Runner, the Transit Branch introduced the new services of RapidBus BC. As an addition to current bus service, RapidBus BC will be faster, frequent and more direct in carrying passengers to their destinations.

Together with BC Transit and TransLink, the Transit Branch, is also working hard to establish a climate of change, and to widen the perception of transit as a more viable alternative when compared to the car.

#### Transit Workshop

On November 27, the Vancouver Island District hosted a transit workshop, in Victoria. The workshop was organized by Dave Edgar and Kevin House, and brought Vancouver Island District staff together with their counterparts at headquarters and from other public agencies. The day was structured in order to share technical information on transit projects and funding sources, and to provide feedback to senior level staff regarding new ministry policies.

One of the major outcomes of the workshop is a proposal to form a Vancouver Island Transit Committee to help build inter-agency connections and to provide a forum for ongoing dialogue on current and planned projects on the island. Plans have also been circulated for similar workshops to be held elsewhere in the province, to help staff build and define the ministry's new "Transit Culture."

#### Lunch and Learn Videos

##### Transit Trends: What it Means for Our Ministry

Starting January 20, the Transit Branch will be hosting a monthly video presentation during the lunch hour in Victoria headquarters' 3A boardroom. Bring your noon-day meal to this lunch and learn series and gain insight into traffic congestion, commuting trends and car alternatives around the world. Find out how changes made in different cities, have impacted the ability of residents to more easily move around, and how this has made their city more "liveable".

All ministry employees in other districts, or headquarters employees that missed a screening, are encouraged to send Jean Bishop a request for any of the DVDs. Additional showings can be arranged per request. ♦

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#### Submit your stories and photos:

If you want to submit stories and photos send your word files and photos to: [RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca)



# Come Ride with Us.... and Help Change Culture!

*continued from page 16*

## ARRANGE YOUR SCHEDULE TO ATTEND THESE SHOWINGS

(Starring Narrator Brad Pitt and Cities From Around the World)

**February 17**

**Paris: Vélo Liberté** – Paris' ambitious public-private Vélib' bike initiative, which encourages residents to forgo cars for bikes and public transportation.

**March 11**

**Seoul: The Stream of Consciousness** – the effort to reduce traffic and pollution in Seoul, Korea, by restoring the Chonggyecheon Stream as a centre of public life.

**April 8**

**Portland: A Sense of Place** – Portland as a global model of transit-oriented development and urban "liveability."

**May 19**

**Bogotá: Building a Sustainable City** – How Enrique Penalosa, the former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, used urban planning to create alternatives to automobile culture.

## Our New Home

With Sheila Taylor's departure, the Transit Branch moved to the Partnerships Department under Frank Blasetti. We are looking forward to working with this new group. Thankfully, we are not physically moving, so our friends in the Finance Department will not be that far away!

### Transit Joke:

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On our desk we have work stations. Go figure!

Next time:

Come Ride with Us...

and see how transit is green!

### Past Articles:

1. The Provincial Transit Plan – March 2008
2. The Rapid Transit Network – May 2008
3. Transit outside Metro Vancouver – September 2008
4. Come Ride with Us on RapidBus BC – November 2008

# Heads Shaved and Cash Raised for Terry Deacon

Submitted by Rick Blixrud, Fort George District Manager

In September 2008, Terry Deacon, Supervising Area Vehicle Inspector for the Fort George District, was diagnosed with leukemia. Terry has since undergone three rounds of chemotherapy and is now recovering at home in Prince George.

To help Terry, and his wife Sandy and their family, with expenses for the past three months, there were a number of events held in the Northern Region. Darhl Paley, Barry Dawson, Nic Leatham, Carol Juba and Greg Bruce have all been instrumental in arranging the fundraising. These efforts took place in conjunction with fundraising for Bill Crandall's family, at a Valemount barbecue and hair shaving event which generated over \$3,000. (See Page 32).

The Peace District and the Provincial Permit Centre sold baked goods and raised approximately \$500. (Thanks Derrick Drummond and team!). In Prince George, CVSE teams from Prince George and Vanderhoof held a silent auction and head shaving event and which generated over \$5,000 in a single night. Five truck drivers from local firms even shaved their heads to add funds to the pot.

The CVSE folks were joined by Wendy Herring, Northern Region's Manager of System Services, who bravely shed her locks for the cause. Margo Maley (a.k.a. Margo Sheenan) had her tresses cut (the shears did not get down to her scalp) as apparently she has been growing her hair since she was 16. Ron Marshall, Operations Manager, was master of ceremonies at the event and managed to increase bids by several creative means – he even raised \$600 for the shaving of his own head!

Donations in support of these two families have been coming from literally every corner of the province, from folks within our ministry and from several industry leaders. To date the total is an amazing \$13,496.86! This outpouring of support is truly appreciated by Terry and Sandy, as well as Bill Crandall's wife, Sandra. They want to thank each and every one of you who contributed or supported them in their time of need. ♦



Stacey Deacon (daughter), Terry Deacon, Sandy Deacon and Darhl Paley (CVSE District Manager).



Ministry staff Glenn Winther, Nic Leatham, Greg Bruce, Wendy Herring, Barry Dawson, Carol Juba, Ron Marshall, Margo Maley and Steve Larkman.

# Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

## Word Search

Submitted by Cameron Gray, Business Analyst

Can you find the words common to our ministry, buried in this grid? For those who get stuck, the answers can be found on the Road Runner website at: <http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/roadrunners/index-roadrunners.htm>



- 1 AVALANCHE
- 2 BIP
- 3 BRIDGE
- 4 CLIMATE ACTION
- 5 COQUIHALLA
- 6 CROWSNEST
- 7 CVSE
- 8 DRIVEBC
- 9 ENGINEERING
- 10 FERRIES

- 11 GATEWAY
- 12 GAZEX
- 13 HIGHWAY
- 14 HOV
- 15 KICKINGHOURSE
- 16 LIONSGATE
- 17 MAINLAND
- 18 NICOLA
- 19 RISP
- 20 ROUNDABOUT

- 21 SEA TO SKY
- 22 SKEENA
- 23 SNOWSHED
- 24 STIKINE
- 25 TRAFFIC
- 26 TRANSIT
- 27 TRANSPORTATION
- 28 TRIP
- 29 W R BENNETT
- 30 YELLOWHEAD

# Contest Generates Photos of Bulkley-Stikine

Submitted by Sherrie Applegate, Sr. Development Approvals Technician

As an incentive for staff to submit photos of the Bulkley-Stikine District area, a photo contest was held recently, with a closing date of December 5. There were four categories: scenery, wildlife, outdoor activities and road maintenance in action. A gift certificate was up for grabs in each category.

There were in the neighbourhood of a hundred photos submitted in the four categories. It was a challenge to pick the winners as there were some great photos submitted. ♦

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Sandhill Cranes on Woodmere Road (Wildlife) by Mike Savage

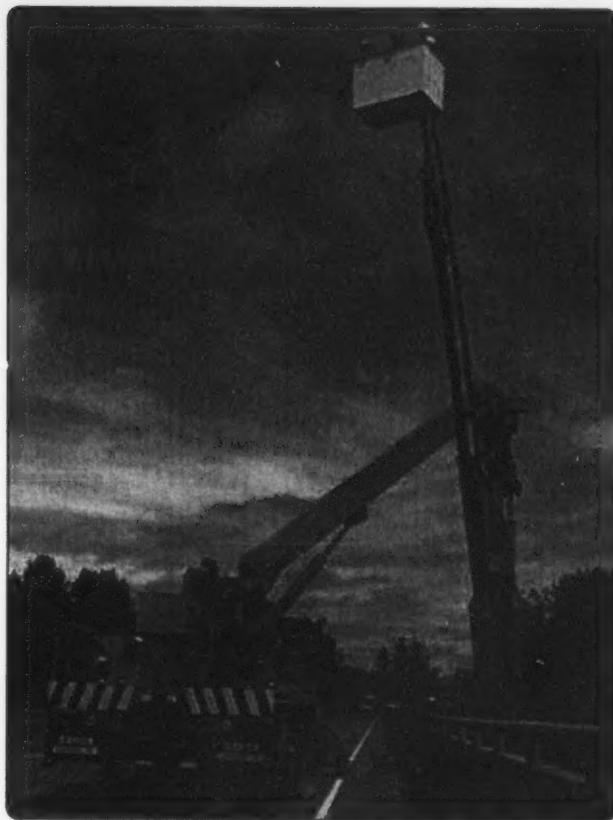


First Coho on the Bulkley River (Outdoor Activities) by Brendan Kelly



Plow Truck (Road Maintenance in Action – Winter) by Sueann Ciampichini

## Contest Generates Photos of Bulkley-Stikine *continued from page 20*



Snooper Truck on Kitseguecla Bridge (Road Maintenance in Action – Summer) by Marlene Keehn



Pine Creek Near Atlin (Scenery) by Brendan Kelly



Photo contest winners: Mike Savage, Marlene Keehen, Suseann Ciampichini and Brendan Kelly.

# No Executives Were Harmed in the Raising of These Funds

Submitted by Kimberly Newton, HR Research Analyst

**"EIGHT! NINE! TEN! KNOCK OUT!"** Raising money for charity has never been as loud as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Executive Boxing Heavy Weight Championship of 2008, held to raise money for the Provincial Employee Community Services Fund.

With the smell of pizza in the air and the sound of "Eye of the Tiger" drowned out by cheering fans, energy was running high and fists were flying, as members of the Executive showed off their boxing prowess on the Nintendo Wii.

The event took place at headquarters in boardroom 3A over lunch on Nov. 19. Hundreds of raffle tickets were sold to employees "betting" on which member of the executive would win the coveted championship belt (handmade by the talented Sandy Evans, Manager, Regulatory Policy). After several rounds of fierce competition, Assistant Deputy Minister Sheila "Golden Gloves" Taylor defeated fellow ADM Sandra "Lightning Fists" Carroll, in an exciting final match.

The event raised \$1,200 for charity. ♦

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Peter "The Intimidator" Milburn and Marilyn "Warrior" Wargo engage in a spirited match, to the delight of spectators.



The Contendahs: Mike "Mr. Clean Your Clock" Proudfoot, Frank "Slick Frankie B." Blasetti, John "Bruiser" Dyble, Sheila "Golden Gloves" Taylor, Sandra "Lightning Fists" Carroll, Peter "The Intimidator" Milburn and Marilyn "Warrior" Wargo.

## No Executives Were Harmed

## in the Raising of These Funds continued from page 22



(Then) Deputy Minister John Dyble and ADM Sheila Taylor duke it out on the Wii.



A jubilant Sandra Carroll delights in her victory over Mike Proudfoot.

# Ringside Seat

At the one, the only  
**Executive Boxing Event!**

Boardroom 3A, 12 noon, November 19, 2008

All proceeds go to Charity – PECSF 2008/09 9735  
Know your limit play within it – Problem Gambling Helpline 1-800-798-6111



Good for two pieces of  
pizza and a pop!

A coveted \$20 ticket to a ringside seat at the boxing event.

## Bird's Eye View of Bentley Slide

Submitted by Paul Shul, Ministry Representative

**Below is a photo I took November 7, from the top of the Bentley Slide (between Peachland and Summerland) looking down on a closed Highway 97. One of the shuttle ferries plying Okanagan Lake is in the background, taking commuters around the closure. The photo was taken from the hilltop, after a vigorous hike up the mountain side. ♦**



## Football Debt Paid in Full

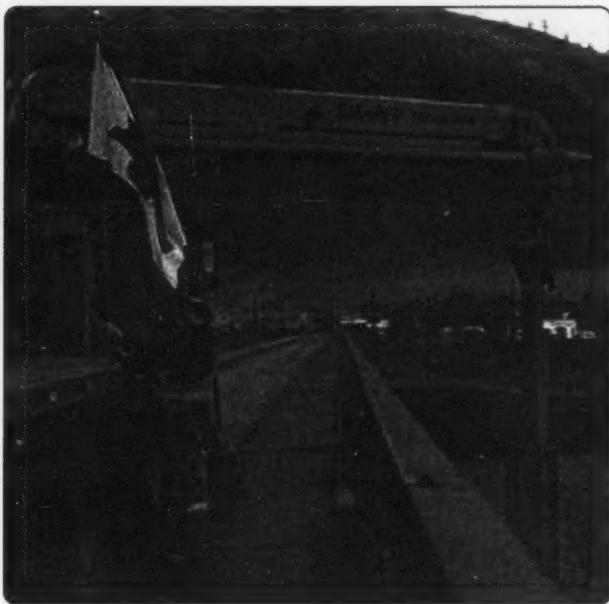
Submitted by Jurgen Lutter, Bridges Area Manager

**On November 1, 2008, the BC Lions squeaked past the Saskatchewan Roughriders by the narrowest of margins – 33 to 12. Having lost his bet, Saskatchewan-born Bridge Inspection Supervisor Rees Davidson was obligated to “fly the flag” which he did on the Old Spences Bridge on December 8, 2008.**



Rees and Bridge Construction/Rehabilitation Engineer John Coyne display the flag.

Rees mounted the flag on the snooper truck, while work took place in the basket, lowered below the bridge. The flag flew for the better part of the day, until I took it away from him before he broke it. ♦



Rees mounts the flag on the truck, gamely wearing his Saskatchewan Roughrider's cap.

# You're a Winner!

## Fourth Procurement and Contract Program Graduation a Success

Submitted by Provincial Field Services

**On October 24, a happy group of Procurement and Contract Management Program graduates congregated for their case study presentations and completion of the program, in Victoria.**

The graduates spent many years completing the program. They presented detailed case studies to their peers and discussed ways their new accreditation will help them achieve further success within their ministries.

The graduating class of 22 consisted of employees from various ministries. They included two Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure employees: Manager of Field Services Barry Bergstrom and Senior Contract Administration Officer Peter DeWith.

Graduates celebrated their recent achievement at a luncheon, with heartfelt speeches and recognition, for their hard work and achievement.

Field Services is especially proud of our colleague Barry and his accomplishment, and sends good wishes and congratulations to Barry, Peter and all of the graduates! ♦



PCMP graduating class of 2008. (Peter DeWith is in the back row, standing the tallest, and Barry Bergstrom is to the right of him).



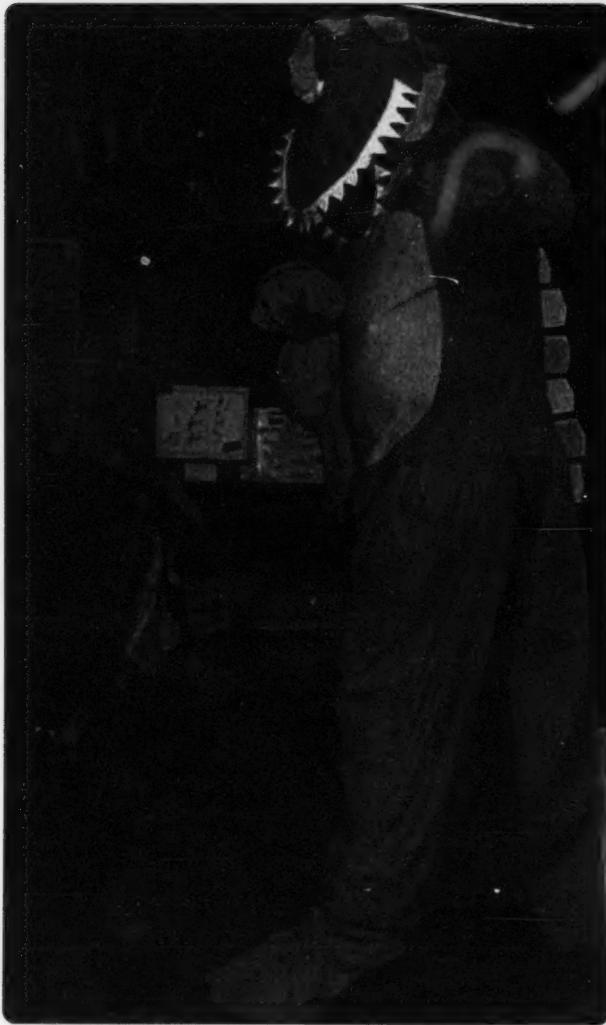
Barry Bergstrom displays his graduation certificate. Finance and Management Services Assistant Deputy Minister Sheila Taylor is at Bob's left.

# Dinosaur and Doughnuts Raise Cash

A cheerful dinosaur joined the Partnerships Department at headquarters, to sell raffle tickets, to raise money for the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, in November. Potential ticket buyers were enticed with the offer of a free doughnut and a chance to meet a not-so-tyrannical-saurus-rex.

The prizes for the winning included a hundred Helijet dollars, lunch at the Aegean Café, Delta Vancouver Hotel accommodation, coffee gift certificates from Bean Bandits and return airfare for two, between Vancouver and Victoria, with Harbour Air.

With the help of ministry colleagues, sponsors and others, the Partnerships Department was able to raise more than \$1,500 for community organizations. ♦



Dinosaur beckons people to goodies and raffle tickets.



Manager of Corporate Writing Services Sara Haskett is approached by dinosaur.



Sara Haskett has a friendly chat with the creature, who turns out to be the amiable Director of Partnership and Project Development Bob Steele.

# Community Events

## Cops for Cancer Ride a Moving Experience

Submitted by Heather Lilburn, Inspector Portable Weigh Scale

**Taking part in the Cops for Cancer Tour de Valley has been the single most moving experience of my life.**

It's impossible to accurately describe, either the range of emotion or the profound growth, I've gone through with my involvement. Very few people, I believe, get to take part in something so inexplicably difficult and rewarding at the same time. Being a part of the tour has redefined words like courage, pain, determination and loss for me, as I've become close to kids with cancer and their parents, through the Canadian Cancer Society.



Heather Lilburn has her head shaved by Faith, a leukemia survivor who was bald during her first two years of school.

I'm very lucky to get so much from a group of kids that ask so little. I'm completely compelled by them to live each moment sincerely, and do my absolute best to not live the guilt of yesterday or the anxieties of tomorrow, but to simply be grateful.

Tour de Valley is a physically gruelling nine-day bicycle ride with 22 or so of my new closest friends from law enforcement. However the real challenge is the depth of reality when exposed to sick and dying children. It's that reality that puts whatever aches, pains and inconveniences the riders endure, into their proper perspective, as trivial matters. We travel from Tsawwassen to Boston Bar, and everywhere in between, roughly 100 kilometres a day, talking to schools, meeting with businesses and speaking with anyone else who will listen to the message of keeping themselves cancer free. The monies raised go toward supporting children living with cancer and their families, as well as pediatric cancer research.

We on the tour have the privilege of seeing how charitable contributions are put to use and the awesome difference a dollar can make. This year I had my head shaved by a nine-year-old leukemia survivor, without a moment's hesitation. There is no place for vanity in the face of the struggles these kids have faced. With support from the trucking community and the ministry, I was able to raise over \$10,000 personally, and at last count the Tour de Valley raised funds approaching half a million dollars.

Despite the two funerals and countless memorials, and time away from my family, I hope to ride again in the 2009 Tour de Valley. I also want to do the 2009 Ride to Survive, from Kelowna to Delta, in 16 hours. It's a ton of work...but it beats chemo.

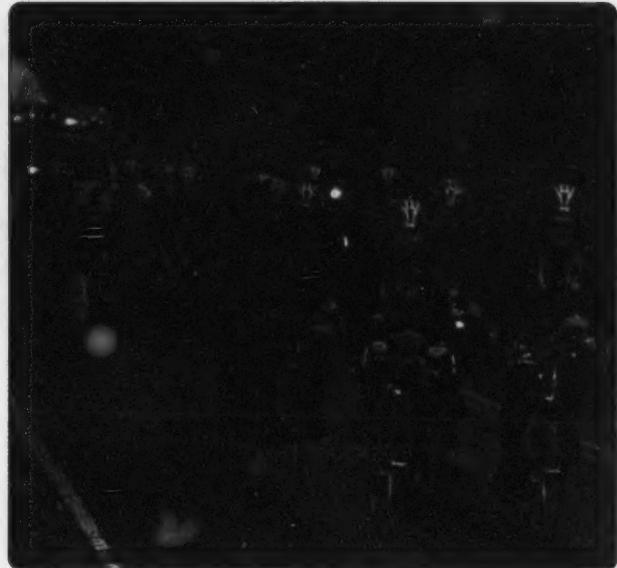
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## Community Events *continued from page 27*

### Cops for Cancer Ride a Moving Experience



A shaved Heather with two young supporters – seven-year-old Sara (at right) whose mother has cancer, and Sara's friend (at left).



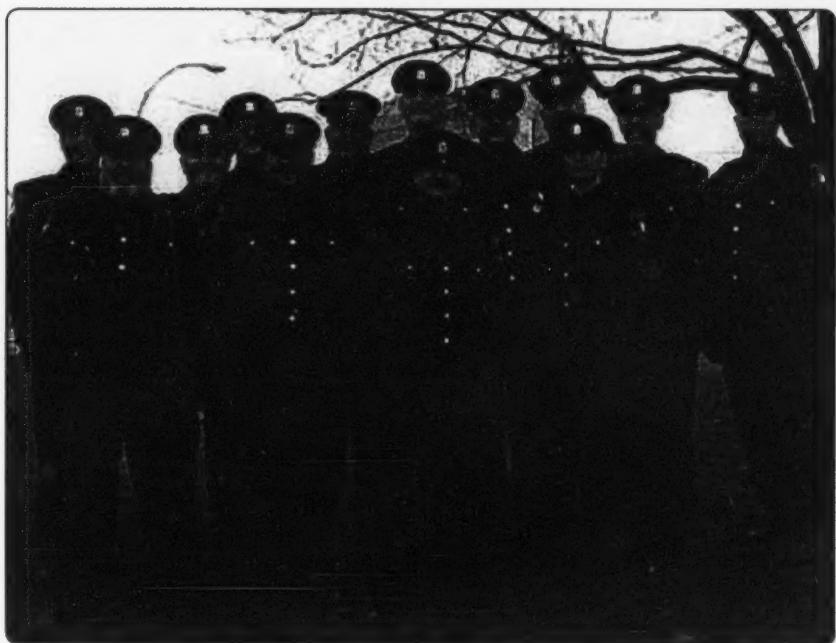
Tour de Valley Riders on their 140 km Hope to Boston Bar (and back) day.

### CVSE Participate in Remembrance Day Ceremony

Submitted by Tito Zannella, CVSE District Manager

**On November 11, 13 CVSE inspectors participated in the Remembrance Day ceremony in Kamloops. This was the first time CVSE staff in Kamloops had ever taken part in this annual event. All involved were very proud to represent both the ministry and CVSE. A reef was laid on behalf of the group, by Wayne Ronald, and the whole event was organized by Lori Alexander. ♦**

Back row: Dino Covaceuszach, Don Allenby, Jim Stacey, Chris McBride, Dennis Pryhitko, Wayne Ronald, Bart Chenuz, Vincent Welland and Darren Maywood. Front row: Peter Doyle, Kerry Hegedus, Tito Zannella and Lori Alexander.



# Onto new vistas

TRAN Employee Retirements

## Best Wishes and Good Luck to Dianne Friend

Submitted by Fernanda Badke, Regional Administration Clerk

**On December 10,** a retirement luncheon was held at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course to celebrate Dianne Friend's retirement from 21 years of government service. It was a great send-off, as about 65 friends, colleagues and co-workers (past and current) were in attendance to honour Dianne.

Dianne was instrumental in setting up the ministry's first project management department, to handle projects in the South Coast Region. She worked there for several years and ensured the department ran smoothly and high standards were always maintained. She took great pride and pleasure in organizing retirement luncheons. We thank Dianne for her contribution to the many initiatives that she was involved in and for the professionalism that she demonstrated. By her involvement in many committees, Dianne displayed a willingness to make a difference wherever possible.

Throughout her career Dianne mentored many employees by sharing her knowledge, professionalism and high standards. Her positive attitude, sunny



People came from near and far to attend Dianne Friend's retirement celebration.

disposition, willingness to help, and dedication have always made her a joy to be associated with. There are many of us who will miss her as we continue to strive to reach the benchmarks she has set. Dianne always displayed what it means to be a part of "The Best Place on Earth" to work and live.

Our wish for Dianne is to have a long, healthy and happy retirement, enabling her to pursue those interests that were placed on the backburner. Enjoy your travels – live each day to the fullest – and thanks for the laughs and all the wonderful memories! ♦

### Submit your stories and photos:

If you want to submit stories and photos send your word files and photos to: [RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca)



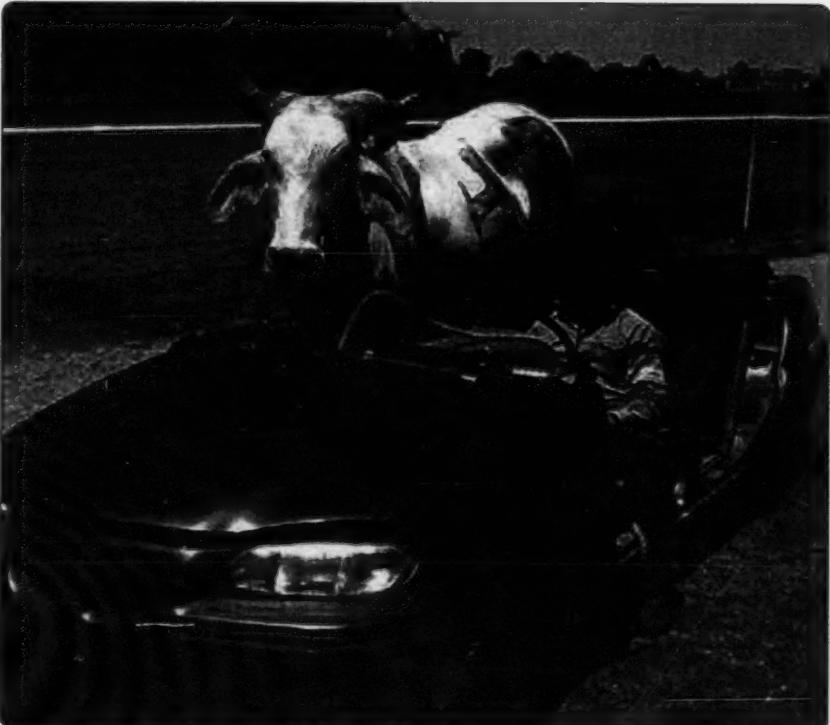
# On the road again

TRAN Employees On The Move

## How to Haul a Prize Bull

Area Manager Bridges Doug Wilson found these photos on the Pass the Humor website. (<http://passthehumor.blogspot.com/2008/09/how-to-haul-bull-in-oklahoma.html>). The website labels the vehicle an Oklahoma livestock hauler, and comments, "And you thought they needed to have a trailer!"

Transporting cargo this way, appears not only extremely unsafe, but also hard on a vehicle's upholstery. The vehicle and its passenger, have so far, not been seen on British Columbia highways.



## Caribou Catching Up?

Is this a caribou catching up with the rest of his herd? Or a reindeer running after Santa's long-gone sleigh?

Best to ask Area Manager Roads Cliff Razzo, the employee that took this photograph of a mountain caribou walking up the centre line of the highway through Kootenay Pass. ♦

# You never know what you'll see.

## Tow Truck Gets Towed

Submitted by Ken Prasad, Supervisor - Area Vehicle Inspector

Here, a towing vehicle is transported onto a truck after going down an embankment, in the Coquitlam area. It turns out that the tow truck driver (new on the job) lost the vehicle he was hauling. He stopped the tow truck, leapt out and dashed after the runaway vehicle to try to stop it. To his surprise, when he looked back, he saw his tow truck travelling in the other direction.

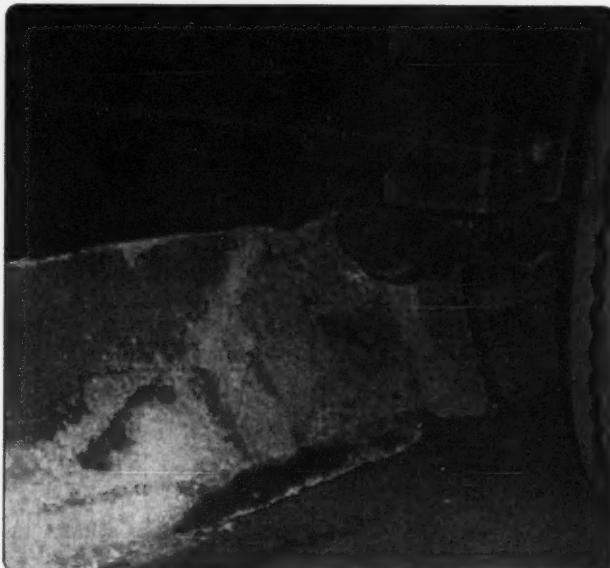
The driver, when asked, said that the vehicle (an automatic) was in "park" and the parking brake was applied. CVSE staff found the tow truck was not in fact in "park position," and that the parking brake was not engaged. The vehicle was placed out of service and violation tickets were issued by the RCMP.



Two trucks recover the tow truck

## Heavy Hauling

Commercial Transport Inspector Tallon Smith took these photos at the Golden Inspection Station. Wedged underneath the truck is a concrete barrier. The driver had travelled 23 kilometres from Golden with this cargo, before stopping in at the weigh scale. ♦



# In Memoriam : William Crandell

Submitted by Rick Blixrud, Fort George District Manager, on Behalf of the Fort George Team

William Crandall, Commercial Transport Inspector with the Tete Jaune commercial vehicle inspection team, passed away on September 29, following a short battle with cancer. Bill is survived by his wife Sandra and their children.



years of knowledge of the trucking industry, Bill quickly trained and qualified as a Commercial Transport Inspector.

Bill was a great addition to the Tete Jaune team, having a very positive attitude, a steady manner, and a natural connection with the truckers. Bill often told Greg Bruce that after all the up and down years in the trucking industry, he felt this was the first job that he really loved and had settled into. He enjoyed coming to work each day, and his only regret was not joining the ministry earlier.

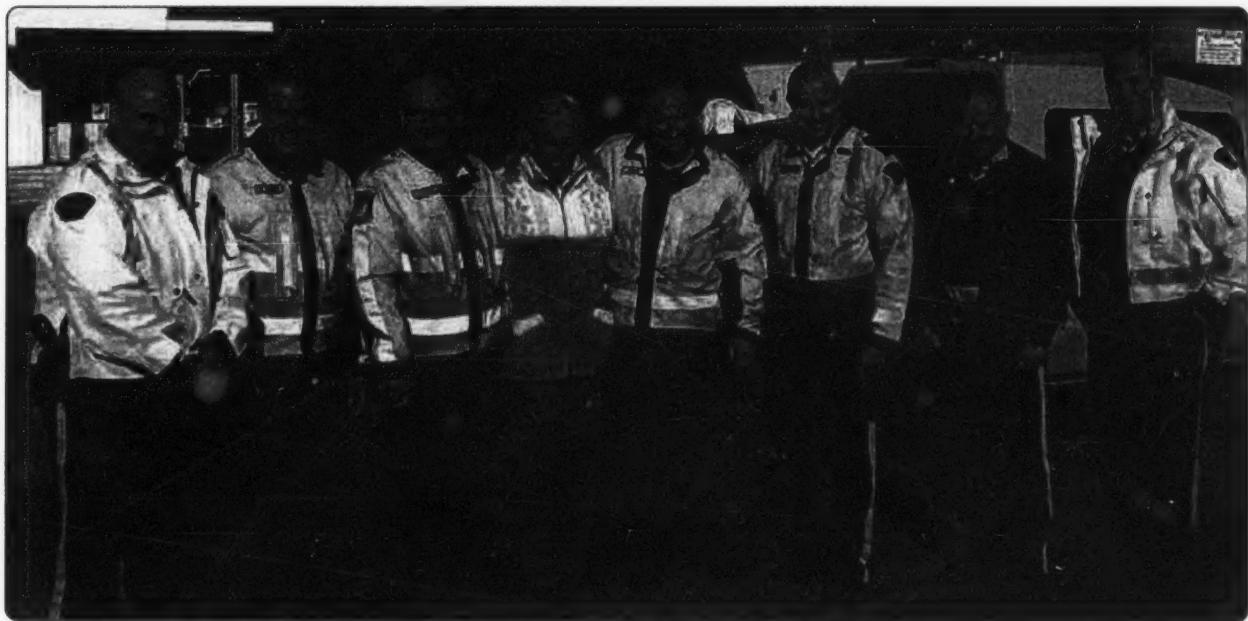
Bill joined the ministry in April 2005. He was 54 when he started his new career in the public service, but his age was not a deterrent. District CVSE Manager Darhl Paley recalls that during his interview, Bill stated, "If you hire me for this job, I'll give it everything I've got." And he lived up to his promise. With his eagerness to learn the job, combined with his

From my visits to the Tete Jaune Scale, I recall three things about Bill: he wore his uniform with pride, he always had a big grin on his face and he loved to share a story and a laugh.

For his position in Tete Jaune, Bill moved from Courtenay to Valemount, and the community quickly became his home. Bill loved to fish and hunt, two passions which he could readily enjoy in the Robson Valley. Bill was an avid outdoorsman, with all the appropriate toys. He loved to ride his quad in the mountains around Valemount, even if it was just to enjoy the scenery. Bill was always eager to recount his latest fishing trip or hunting experience.

Over \$3,000 was raised in a fundraising event, held in Valemount, in Bill's memory and to provide emergency funds for Bill's family. The community hosted a barbecue, and the inspection station team, the RCMP and several members of the public, had their heads shaved in honour of Bill.

Bill will be missed by his friends and colleagues in the ministry and within the community of Valemount. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time. ♦



The Tete Jaune team who shaved their heads in honour of William Crandall: Duane Wickstrom (RCMP), Greg Bruce and Eric Buck (Tete Jaune inspection team), Sandra Andrews (William Crandall's wife), Gord Handlen (Tete Jaune inspection Team), and Constables Shane Parker, James Bos and Ron George (RCMP). Bill Ewart (Tete Jaune inspection team) also became bald, but was not available for the photo.



## Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Staff Roundup

Finance and Management Services Assistant Deputy Minister Sheila Taylor will start a new position as Assistant Deputy Minister for the Medical Services Division, at the Ministry of Health, in February. With Sheila's upcoming departure, the Transit Branch transferred to Frank Blasetti's Partnerships Department, in mid January.

Marine Director Nancy Merston, is acting as human resources director until the Human Resources Branch position is filled permanently. Infrastructure Development Executive Director Kirk Handrahan has taken on the marine portfolio until then.

The Highway Division's Finance and Administration Branch at headquarters recently welcomed Ying Huang as a budget analyst. Ying has a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Concordia University, and many years of related experience.

Lorraine Henderson is acting manager of human resources planning and development. She is on a temporary assignment from the BC Public Service Agency, where she also served the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Kris Olson is working as a human resources technician with Human Resources Consultant Leslie Elder at the BC Public Service Agency. Together they provide client services to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, on Vancouver Island.

Tracy Houser and Kate Fitzpatrick, of the Properties and Business Management Branch, have both been successful in the Management Development Program competition. Tracy's responsibilities for the Transportation Association of Canada Conference will move with her. She will report to Human Resources Acting Director Nancy Merston. Kate will move to her new position, in February, and report to Transportation Policy Director Kirsten Pedersen.

Gislene Guenard joined the Finance and Administration Branch as their new information access coordinator, in early January. Gislene graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and has worked in a number of libraries, most recently at UBC as an Academic Library Assistant. Gislene has over eight years of experience with information management and research.

Dan Baker is the new roads area manager, with responsibility for administering Service Area 27, around Prince Rupert and the Queen Charlotte Islands. Dan brings with him a wealth of experience from two decades in the road maintenance industry. He has abundant local knowledge, having grown up and worked in the Skeena District area all his life.

## David Byng returns to the Ministry as Chief Operating Officer

It's a pleasure for us to say hello again to Dave Byng. As Chief Operating Officer with the ministry, Dave is now responsible for the functional direction of all areas of the ministry's operations.

Dave has worked with the Province of British Columbia for 29 years, 26 of those have been with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. He started in Terrace as an auxiliary Engineering Aide with the Geotechnical and Materials Branch, working for our now Chief Engineer, Dirk Nyland. He moved on to be a Contract Manager (Roads and Bridges) in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

He has worked as a District Highways Manager in Burns Lake and Cranbrook, as well as Regional Director in the Kootenays and the South Coast Region. He moved to Victoria in 2002 to assume the role of Executive Director of the Properties & Business Management Branch.

In September 2005 Dave became an Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) with the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), where his responsibilities included land use planning, the disposition of crown land, and natural resource permitting and authorizations. While at the ILMB, Dave led the implementation of "FrontCounter BC", integrating and streamlining the approval processes for citizens and businesses in BC's natural resource sector. In 2006, FrontCounter BC was awarded the Premier's Award of Excellence and Innovation for Cross-Government Integration.

Dave returned to the ministry as ADM Highways Department, in April 2007, where he was responsible for the



operation, maintenance and construction of the provincial highway system.

Prior to taking on the role of the Ministry's Chief Operating Officer, Dave spent the last year working as the BC Public Service Agency's Associate Deputy Minister, where he was responsible for leading the

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# David Byng returns to the Ministry as Chief Operating Officer

*continued from page 33*

provision of human resource services for the 30,000-person workforce.

Dave has a Master of Arts degree in Leadership from Royal Roads University in Victoria. He also holds a Certificate in Advanced Project Management from Stanford University in California, as well as a Certificate in Intercultural Relations from the University of British Columbia. In 2004, he was the recipient of the Royal Roads University Founders' Award in recognition of having demonstrated the exemplary

qualities of leadership, sustainability and personal development. Dave was elected as a Fellow with the Royal Geographical Society in London in 2004 and as a Fellow with the Explorers Club in New York City in 2007.

On a more personal note, what you may not know about Dave is his passion for expeditions. This has involved international relief trips to the Amazon Basin installing water filtration equipment in remote villages. In 2006 Dave led a

scientific research expedition in the jungle of Cusco National Park, situated in the mountainous cloud forest of Honduras, Central America. In 2007 and 2008 Dave led desert expeditions undertaking biodiversity research on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. He and his family will be leading a scientific expedition from the Suez to Mt. Sinai in 2009.

Way to go Dave, and from all of us: Welcome back and please stay a while.

## Peter Milburn is Appointed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure



"The Ministry has been my life's work and the dedication and skills of the people I have encountered over the years here has always made me feel very proud about our team."

Peter Milburn, January 27, 2009

As the newly appointed Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Peter is responsible for the all aspects of the Ministry's business. Working in so many different locations provides Peter with a unique understanding of the geographic diversity of British Columbia, along with the complex transportation challenges. We thought it would be informative to provide a brief overview of Peter's career with the Ministry.

Peter has a B.A.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of British Columbia. Peter began his career with the Ministry back in 1983, when he joined the Engineer in Training program working in Terrace, Prince Rupert and Merritt. He stayed in the north for the next few years, working as the District Operations Manager, Dawson Creek (South Peace) in 1986 and District Manager, Fort St. John (North Peace) in 1988.

He started to move south in 1989 when he was appointed District Manager, Cariboo, he continued his move south when in

1991 he was appointed Howe Sound District Manager. Peter's next career change occurred was when he moved to the Lower Mainland to be the District Manager based out of New Westminster in 1993.

Peter took on the challenging role of Regional Manager, Traffic Operations, South Coast Region in 1996 before heading east where he worked as Regional Director in Nelson for the next four years.

The Olympic Bid saw Peter return to the South Coast Region, where he headed up the Olympic Bid Project in 2001 as Project Director, with the additional role as Executive Director, Sea to Sky Highway Improvement Project in 2002. Peter went on to be Regional Director, South Coast Region and then moved over to Victoria when he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Highways Department in 2005.

Peter became the Ministry's Chief Operating Officer in 2007 and is now our new Deputy Minister. ♦

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